

From: [REDACTED]
 To: [Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee](#)
 Subject: Abortion Bill - Please don't do it.
 Date: Tuesday, 4 September 2018 8:25:05 PM

To the Health Committee,

I'm greatly concerned by what seems like a constant barrage of attacks on the life of the unborn, the latest being the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018. Only over this weekend I watched a Television advertisement that visually tracked the growth of a baby from 1 week old through to 36 weeks. I'm aghast at anyone who can tell me that at any stage from conception, that tiny life isn't human.

I understand at times of medical emergency, there needs to be a choice to save one life, when both might be lost. In the case of such medical emergency, the decision must be made to terminate life, it is then and only then that this terrible choice should even be considered.

The termination of life should never be for convenience, due to sex, race, or as a form of contraceptive. Our society has become all about me, and what suits me. Once our society actually stood up for those who couldn't stand up for themselves, the old, the young, the weak, the sick, the disabled and the unborn. Why is it okay to stop supporting the unborn? If pregnancy has become such a social problem, then shouldn't we be looking at better education as to the results of sexual activity, rather than choosing to terminate the results of our own wilfulness, being innocent unborn children?

It seems this Bill allows for some really concerning, even dangerous options, to which I wish to talk:

(Sections of the bill in italics) - My responses in bold.

The bill allows for DIY abortions [Part 3, S10] - Surely in the interests of public safety, for whatever reason, this is not a good idea?

The bill allows for abortion up until birth for any reason. - This I've spoken to above, when it suits, life begins at conception and those associated with the loss of that life are devastated should it be lost, I've witnessed this in my own family. Why is it then okay to terminate such life for any reason other than to save that of the mother in a medical emergency?

The second doctor who needs to sign off on the procedure after 22 weeks need not see the woman requesting termination [Part 2, S6] - Where is the accountability here?

The bill compels complicity from medical practitioners with a conscientious objection [Part 2, S8] - If those choosing to have the Abortion or Terminate Life can choose, why has the right of a doctor being taken away? This is not a situation where the doctor is refusing to save life, but in fact the opposite, this is so wrong?

Under Part 4 [Safe Access Zones] it may be considered legitimate to report a heavily pregnant woman walking past a termination clinic, or a mother with her baby walking past a termination clinic, as they may deter a woman from entering the premises. - What are we afraid of here, that someone seeking an abortion might actually have a conscience and realise what they're doing is wrong? How is a mother or mother to be walking past a termination of life clinic an offence? Are we slipping into

totalitarianism here?

The bill would allow for sex-selection abortion. - We have anti-discrimination laws for those having been born, why is it okay to discriminate against those who are unborn and unable to defend themselves?

The bill allows no say for fathers who wish to keep their children, but conversely, if a mother wishes to keep her child and a father does not, he must still pay child support. - As for the point above, why are fathers being discriminated against here? It takes 2 parties to make a baby, this section of the Bill implies the male is always in the wrong. Where is justice in this?

The bill says nothing about informed consent - women need to know the possible impacts, and what the process actually involves. This new law does not offer any penalties for clinics that do not follow proper informed consent recommendations. - This picks up my point above, the termination of life should never take the place of good education. There are plenty of willing couples out there who greatly desire children and are unable to have them. Why shouldn't these precious little lives be given a chance to have a life rather than having it cut short?

Finally, in a survey taken less than a month ago the following public opinions were voiced, this bill would deny the voice of the people in the following ways:

62% said the unborn at 23 weeks is a person with rights.

75% said abortion harms women's health.

26% personally know someone who had been pressured into having an abortion.

60% opposed mid-term abortions past 13 weeks.

76% opposed late-term abortions past 23 weeks.

88% agreed there independent counselling should be offered.

74% people supported the conscientious objection of those involved in the procedure.

83% opposed sex selection.

52% oppose abortion for any reason up to 22 weeks

62% oppose abortion for social reasons past 22 weeks

The views on the current law were as follows:

18% said it was not restrictive enough

38% said it was about right

27% said it was too restrictive.

When last I looked we lived in a democratic country, why is it when there is such social opposition to any change in the law is there such a push to change it?

As in my subject line I ask you please do not change the current abortion laws?

Kind regards,
Colin Austerberry

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